

S/N 09/210,055

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: John David Miller

Examiner: Thu-Thao Havan

#6

Serial No.: 09/210,055

Group Art Unit: 2672

Butt
3.9.01

Filed: December 11, 1998

Docket: 884.055US1

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING IMAGE
TRANSPARENCY

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231



Applicant has reviewed the Office action mailed on February 13, 2001.

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Office action mailed on February 13, 2001
and the references cited therewith.

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Claims 1-20 are now pending in the application.

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Technology Center 2600

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tannenbaum et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,720,020). Applicant traverses the rejections.

Applicant does not admit that Tannenbaum et al. is prior art and reserves the right to swear behind Tannenbaum et al. as provided for in 37 C.F.R. 1.131.

Applicant respectfully submits that Tannenbaum et al. is directed to fundamentally different concepts than the claims of the present application. The abstract of Tannenbaum et al. states: "A system and method for drawing non-opaque objects with realistic refraction attributes." Thus, Tannenbaum et al. is concerned with correctly rendering two-dimensional images of non-opaque objects having indices of refraction other than unity. Tannebaum et al. simulates refraction in the images produced by shifting of pixels. Applicant's claims 1-19 are generally directed to "modulating the transparency of an image ..." and to "generating a transparency factor." Applicant respectfully submits that neither of these claimed features is suggested or disclosed in Tannenbaum et al.

Claims 1-19 recite modulating the transparency of an object as a function of "a vector normal to a viewing surface." The office action states: "Furthermore, Tannenbaum teaches an